

ALEXANDRIA'S ADVANTAGES

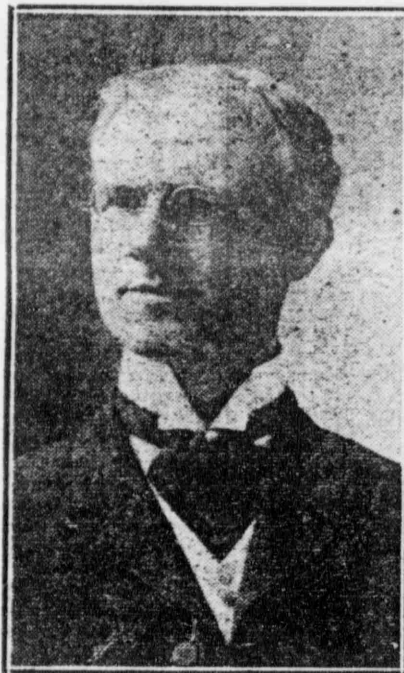
By A. D. BROCKETT,
President of Chamber of Commerce.

The past of Alexandria is a guarantee of its future. At a time when street building was in its infancy, this city, awakened by a spirit of progressiveness, built cobble roadways, grading and guttering Washington and Cameron streets, then others, until the then best material furnished highways superior to other cities of that time. Then came the cry of onward in transportation from the stage to the steam railroad, from the river to the inland by water. Alexandria heeded this cry, and through an issue of bonds secured a municipal interest in the organization and completion of a railroad, and also became a financial factor in the building of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Thus Alexandria, with paved streets and transportation facilities, became the center of commerce.

Burdened by the expense of progressiveness, a time came when the burden of heavy bond issues stayed the acceptance of modern materials.

To-day the vigor and good building of earlier days present these possibilities: Streets of good grade and distances give pleasure to the pedestrian and driver alike; deep water to the Atlantic, connecting the city with the world's commerce; six trunk line railroads, establishing the lowest competitive rates with the great manufacturing centers of the States; an inexhaustible supply of crystal-pure water and a natural drainage that insures health; good schools, kindergarten, primary, and high, public and private; the Episcopal Seminary and High School. The city has churches of all denominations, the buildings are well designed and comfortable, with well-or-

ganized Sunday schools; ample employment in the planing mills, four glass factories, machine shops, vinegar works, chemical works, fertilizer works, flour mill, ship yards, railroads, and jobbing



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horses. The cost of living, including rents, raiment, and foodstuff, is cheap, and the houses are well and attractively built, well ventilated, with sewer connections, gas, electric light, and water.

About four years ago the business men of Alexandria recognized the need of a clearance house for progressive thought and organized a chamber of commerce, along lines broad and efficient, for the exploitation of the natural advantage of this manufacturing site at the gateway of the new South. The chamber of commerce soon expanded, and a new creature, the Retail Merchants' Association, became a factor. These two trade organizations represent the best fiber of this natural commercial center. Freight classifications and gravity handling of all trains of North and South in the large Potomac yards should attract the manufacturing prospector, principally because of the competition to build ample sidings for the accommodation of the heaviest manufacturing, thereby saving the vital expense of drayage.

Viewing the large truck gardens amid the advantages of these wonderful transportation facilities, we are constrained to picture a time when these farms will hum with the whirl of factory machinery.

To the manufacturer ample financial accommodation can be had at the three national banks, trust corporation, and private banking institutions.

The near advantages of Alexandria lie in its close proximity to the National Capital—Washington, D. C. This considered, Alexandria becomes the veritable workshop of the beautiful city of government buildings and residences. Already movements are afoot to connect the two cities by macadam roadways.

The foregoing sketch awakens the thought of Alexandria being the real protectorate of the beautiful subdivisions now built and building; the call for fire and police protection inspires the annexation of adjacent territory. Our present progress, with its stimulus, must have greater field for the endeavor for a commercial growth that cannot and will not stop.

WHY ALEXANDRIA IS GOING AHEAD

By W. A. SMOOT, JR.

There has been a tendency on the part of a number of people who have been misinformed on the subject to smile when any mention is made of "progressive Alexandria," but it is pleasing to observe that the number of such persons is being rapidly reduced, and that Alexandria's actual progress is being more and

more impressed upon those who are in any way interested, as it is realized that few of the smaller cities in this section have enjoyed a steadier improvement in recent years, and, although there has been nothing in the nature of a boom, yet there has been a healthy and normal growth that causes a general feeling of confidence, as far as the stability of Alexandria as a business and residential city is concerned.

There are a number of reasons why Alexandria has been going ahead, but, taking the commercial point of view, there are few cities in this entire section which afford such advantageous railroad and water facilities, coupled with cheap land and favorable labor conditions, and these advantages are amply proven by the fact that there are few manufactories or other industries located at Alexandria which are not adding constantly to their business; and in that connection it is interesting to know that there were 41,854 cars of freight handled in and out of Alexandria for its own business in the year 1909, which was an increase of over 2,000 cars over the year 1908, and there is every indication that the 1910 tonnage will show a very material increase over last year.

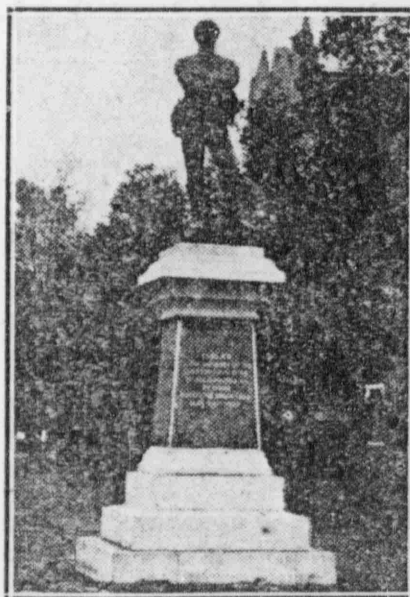
It should be borne in mind that Alexandria's railroad tonnage does not include its entire commerce, as its docks handled over 300,000 tons of freight last year, which was about 20 per cent of the entire commerce of the Potomac River, it is understood.

Alexandria has been very fortunate in having its affairs in the hands of alert and progressive business men for a number of years, and it is now enjoying the

advantages to be derived from the closest alliances between all of its interests, and there never was a time that greater enthusiasm was brought to bear in up-building and improving this historic city, and there can be very little fear of the outcome, as the present and past have brought a steady and healthy growth, and the future has every promise of the latter being continued on a larger scale; and that is all that is desired.



W. A. SMOOT, JR.



MONUMENT TO CONFEDERATES.